

Chicago Tribune's Press Service to Quit Jan. 31

By HENRY RAYMONT

The Chicago Tribune Press Service, a news wire service started at the turn of the century, notified its subscribers yesterday that it would cease operations on Jan. 31.

Once engaged in a competitive race with major wire services in at least 60 newspapers across the country, in recent years the news service had dropped to fewer than 30 subscribers.

The cancellation of the news service will not affect the operation of its parent organization, The Chicago Tribune and The New York Daily News Syndicate, Inc., which will continue. Arthur Laro, president of the syndicate, said here yesterday that discontinuance of the news wire would allow the syndicate to concentrate on "acquiring and preparing highly profitable special features."

New Paper Considered

Another executive of the publishing company said privately that the news service had been losing money. He said the decision to discontinue the service came after Reuters, Britain's leading foreign news agency, let it be known it would cease using the service for its distribution west of the Mississippi on Jan. 1.

"The news service was an important part of the syndicate, but it had become marginal in terms of profits," the executive said.

Another official said the news service could no longer hope to compete with the ex-

Begin at Turn of the Century, Agency Had Lost Clients During Recent Years

panding news services of The New York Times and of the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post without a heavy investment.

The move to cease operations came two weeks before the Chicago Tribune Company's board of directors holds its monthly meeting. The meeting is expected to consider plans for publication of a New York metropolitan afternoon newspaper by The New York Daily News.

The Chicago Tribune Company, which owns The Chicago Tribune, The New York Daily News and four newspapers in Florida, has a combined daily circulation of 3.5 million, the largest of any newspaper group in the United States.

In addition to handling feature articles, the Chicago Tribune-New York Daily News Syndicate sells rights to numerous popular comic strips, such as Dick Tracy, and to

several national columns, including Boris Knickerbocker, Ed Sullivan and Dear Abbie.

Recently the syndicate began a new department that will acquire and serialize books. The first book offered to clients was Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood."

The Chicago Tribune Press Service was started as an informal wire service and in 1928 received its present name. For the last several decades it offered its clients national and international news from The Chicago Tribune and The New York Daily News. Until 1930, it also distributed the file of the New York Times News Service to clients west of the Mississippi.

In the notification to the news services's subscribers, Mr. Laro said:

"During 1933 the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, Inc., will devote its energies to acquiring and preparing highly profitable special features. Because of concentration on this type of material which we believe to be of most interest to our clients, a decision has been made to discontinue the regular Chicago Tribune Press Service effective Jan. 31, 1933."

P. Raymond, Henry

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PRESS SERVICE